(ख) क्या गुजरात के लिए मिट्टी के तेल के कोटे में वृद्धि करने हेतु कोई अनुरोध प्राप्त हुआ है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उस पर क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) गुजरात की 1993–94 और 1994–95 के दौरान मिट्टी के तेल की आबंटित मात्राएं क्रमशः 790313 मीट्रिक टन और 805680 मीट्रिक टन थी ।

(ख) और (ग) मिट्टी के तेल के अतिरिक्त आबंटन के लिए राज्य सरकारों से समय-समय पर अनुरोध प्राप्त होते हैं । गुजरात सरकार से भी अनुरोध प्राप्त हुआ था । तथापि, उत्पाद-उपलब्धता, विदेशी मुद्रा और अत्यधिक राजसहायता की बाधाओं के कारण राज्यों की संपूर्ण मांग को पूरा करना सम्भव नहीं है । बहरहाल, 1995–96 के दौरान गुजरात को 7983 मीट्रिक टन मिट्टी के तेल की अतिरिक्त मात्रा का आबंटन करने का निर्णय लिया गया है ।

U.N. mechanism to assess damage caused by sanctions

*520. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has suggested that the U. N. Security Council should set up a mechanism to assess the damage caused by economic sanctions on varous countries, in view of the frequency with which sanctions have beenn applied; and

(b) if so, the follow-up action being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The UN Secretary General has suggested the establishment of a mechanism to assess the damoge caused by economic sanctions on various countries. India has noted the suggestion.

India had proposed that not only should an assessment of the economic impact of sanctions on other countries be tabled in the Security Council, when sanctions are being considered, but the Council, which imposes sanctions, should automatically establish a fund to give relief to third countries affected by them.

(b) The matter is under discussion at the United Nations.

Letters written by MPs to the Ministry of Communications

5410. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them.

(c) what is the umber of letters in repsect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containining positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement of customer service of MTNL

5411. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the customer service of Mahanagar Telephone

Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) needs improvement; and

(b) if so, the details of specific steps proposed to be taken to improve the customer service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, Although the customer service provided by MTNL is satisfactory, continuous efforts are being made to improve the customer service further, to meet the rising expectations of the subscribers.

(b) the following steps are being taken to improve the customer services further:

(i) Extension of computerised fault repair service to all the remaining exchange during 1995-96.

(ii) A comprehensive computerised financial management system covering telephone revenue accounting, financial accounting and works accounting is being implemented during 1995-96 which shall substanitally improve billing and revenue accounting.

(iii) Computerisation of manual trunk exchange.

(iv) Expansion of network with a view to provide easy availability of telephones by the end of 1995-96.

(v) External plant upgradation.

(vi) A new improved directory Enquiry System.

Postal facilities in Faridabad

5412. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only one small post office located in Sector 7 in Faridabad, without Telex, Telegraph and other modern facilities for the last 20 years, to serve lakhs of residents living in Sector 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons for not making, it a full-fledged post office, equipped with all the facilities, and

(c) what are the plans to provide all the said facilities at this post office and the progress thereof for the benefit of the residents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sector 7 post office, Faridabad is a delivery post office (having strength of PAs Postal Assistant 8, Postmen 1 and Group 'D' 2, equipped with all postal facilities including Speed Post Booking facility. Telegraph facility is available at Escort Nagar and Ballabhgarh post offices which are situated at a distance of 3 Kms. from Sector 7 post office. Sector 7 post office is serving areas of Sector 6, 7, 8 and 10 and Ballabhgarh is serving Sector 4 and 5. There are separate non-delivery post office for the areas of Sector 8, 9 and 10. Telex facilities are not provided at post offices In Faridabod, these facilities are available at the DTO in NIT Faridabad.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The postal services to the residents of locality by tsis post office are satisfactory. However, modernisation ofo post offices is a continuous process. Telegraph facility is provided in the post offices on demand and justification of traffic.

Employment under Die-in Harness scheme by VSNL, Calcutta

5413. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigar Limted, Calcutta have received a large number of applications for employment under the Die-in Harness Scheme;

(b) whether Government have not yet advised the Nigam to finalise these cases on compassionate grounds;